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**MIL-HDBK-61**  
**DRAFT**  
31 MARCH 1997

# **MILITARY HANDBOOK**

## **CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE**



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## FOREWORD

1. This military handbook is approved for use by all Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense.
2. This handbook provides guidance to military acquisition Program Managers (PMs) and other individuals assigned the responsibility for configuration management on how to ensure the application of product and data configuration management to defense materiel items, in each phase of their life cycle, during a period of significant change in acquisition practices. The manner in which CM is specified in a contract and the process of monitoring contractor application are evolving as the result of two interacting transitions.
3. The first transition is the change in acquisition approach brought about by acquisition reforms introduced via the June 1994 directed implementation of the recommendations contained in the *Blueprint for Change* Report of the DOD Process Action Team on Military Specifications and Standards. It has resulted in the following conceptual changes:
  - a. A shift from the Government imposing requirements on a contractor by citing a military standard to the Government asking the contractor how he intends to apply his standard management practices to a given program and evaluating those practices against industry standards.
  - b. Limiting the focus of Government configuration control to performance requirements rather than the details of the design solution in most instances.
  - c. Basing Government oversight of contractor practice on adequacy of process rather than on inspection of product.
4. The second significant transition influencing configuration management practice results from the rapid advance of information technology. Opportunities for improvements in methodology are constantly challenging the status quo. The predominant media for exchange of information is transitioning from a paper base to a digital one. CALS concepts and standards for information management, data transfer and sharing are increasing the opportunities for Government and industry to productively integrate information from distributed data bases. The Government is defining a standard infrastructure that will contain the configuration management information necessary for the life cycle support and maintenance of its equipment and software. Both Government activities and contractors will be able to access and/or input product information directly to the DoD Configuration Management Automated Information System (CM AIS).
5. Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and other pertinent data which may be of use in improving this document should be addressed to: Chief, Plans and Policy Division, CALS Evaluation and Integration Office, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1609, Falls Church, Va 22041-3466, by using the self-addressed Standardization Document Improvement Proposal (DD Form 1426) appearing at the end of this document, by letter, or by e-mail to burghels@acq.osd.mil.

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